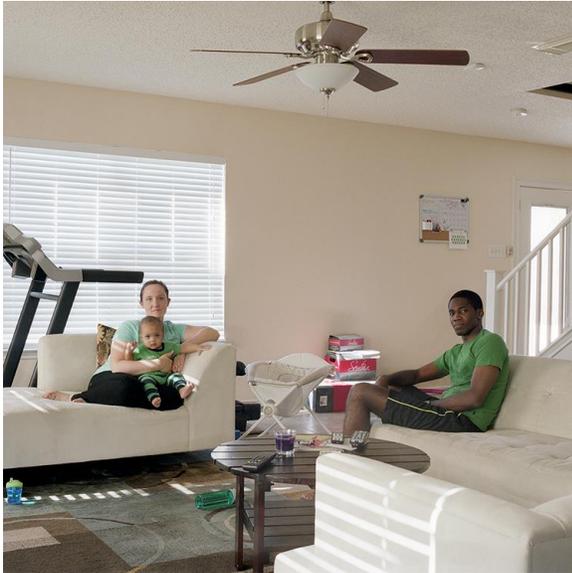


## ***Tanja Hollander: Are you really my friend?*** **A document of friendship in the age of social media is the artist's largest-ever solo museum show**



Ike, Melody, and Zachary Nwangburuka, Converse, Texas  
Archival pigment print, 2015, 42" x 42"

NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS — In February 2011, Maine-based artist **Tanja Hollander** set out to photograph 626 of her Facebook friends in their homes around the world. In June 2015, her final 430<sup>th</sup> portrait was made in Tel Aviv, after traveling to 4 continents, 12 countries, 34 states, 180 cities/towns, 260 zip codes, and 424 homes. This working project evolved into a multimedia art experience that records how we all reshape our lives through photography and digital experiences. *Are you really my friend?* opens at MASS MoCA on **Saturday, February 18**, and an opening reception will be held on Saturday, March 18, from 5:30pm to 7pm, in conjunction with openings for new exhibitions by Liz King, Steffani Jemison, and Chris Domenick.

In *Are you really my friend?* Hollander delves into themes of privacy, contemporary culture, family structure, social networking, and human relationships in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She examines both our on-line and off-line experiences, and incorporates the ideas of compassion and empathy into our modern-day experiences. Ultimately, Hollander intends for the exhibition to be a "collection of portraits that create a window into the home as each subject defines it, a collection of multi-generational and demographic views on friendship, and a slice of life on the road as a lady artist for over 5 years."

*Are you really my friend?* features 430 portraits of Hollander's Facebook friends, landscapes of the places she traveled, snapshots of what she discovered along the way, thousands of images of travel ephemera (such as boarding passes, receipts, gifts, notes, etc.), and a short documentary about the project directed by Robin Greenspun. Additionally, partway through the project, Hollander also began collecting Post-it notes asking people to answer the question, "What is a real friend?" She has collected thousands of these across the world and held two collection sessions at MASS MoCA during the 2015 Solid Sound and FreshGrass music festivals. Visitors to Hollander's exhibition will be able to add their own Post-it musings on friendship throughout the run of the show.

### **About the Artist**

Tanja Alexia Hollander (b. 1972, St. Louis, Missouri) received a B.A. in photography, film, and feminist studies from Hampshire College in 1994. Selections from *Are you really my friend?* have been exhibited

at the Portland Museum of Art, Maine; Virei Viral, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden, Germany. Receiving international media attention for the project, Hollander was invited to give a TEDxDirigo talk in 2012, and has lectured extensively at Demanio Marittimo.KM-278, Marzocca, Italy; the University of Maryland; Clemson University; SXSW; and Facebook headquarters. Hollander is represented by Carroll and Sons in Boston, Massachusetts. She is currently a resident of Auburn, Maine.

## **Sponsorship**

Principal exhibition support is provided by the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Barr Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Designtex, and Color Services, LLC. Major exhibition support is provided by Joey and Ragnar Horn and Caroline Niemczyk.

## **Images**

A collection of high-resolution images is available here: [bit.ly/TanjaHollanderMM](http://bit.ly/TanjaHollanderMM).

## **About MASS MoCA**

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making, displaying, and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. MASS MoCA will nearly double its gallery space in spring 2017, with artist partnerships that include Laurie Anderson, the Louise Bourgeois Trust, Jenny Holzer, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and James Turrell.

Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under through May 21, 2017. Members are admitted free year-round. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is open seasonally, spring – fall. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit [massmoca.org](http://massmoca.org).

## **Hours**

11am to 5pm, closed Tuesdays